

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7 and 16 as indicated hereinbelow.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for isolating a double-stranded cDNA having a nucleotide sequence of a complete open reading frame which comprises:
- A) admixing
- (i) an isolated single-stranded cDNA,
 - (ii) a first primer capable of forming a stem-loop structure, comprising
 - (a) at the 3' end of the primer, a first, random, sequence, linked to
 - (b) a second sequence, linked to
 - (c) a third sequence which forms a loop structure, linked to
 - (d) a fourth sequence, at the 5' end of the first primer, which is complementary to the second sequence,
- under hybridization conditions sufficient for annealing the first sequence of the first primer to the sequence at the 3' end of the single-stranded cDNA, and
- (iii) a polymerase;
- B) incubating the mixture from step (A) under suitable conditions for DNA synthesis; and
- C) performing a polymerase chain reaction by admixing
- (i) an aliquot of the mixture from (B),
 - (ii) a second primer which specifically binds to the single-stranded cDNA,
 - (iii) a third primer which comprises

- (a) a ~~fifth~~ first sequence identical to the third sequence of the first primer, linked to
 - (b) a ~~sixth~~ second sequence identical to a portion of the second sequence of the first primer, and
 - (iv) a polymerase
- under conditions suitable for a polymerase chain reaction so as to produce a double-stranded cDNA reaction product, thereby isolating the cDNA having the sequence of the complete open reading frame.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single-stranded cDNA is a 5' portion of a cDNA reverse transcribed from an mRNA.
3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first primer has the sequence 3'-
NNNNNNNNNNNNNCAGAGCTCAAATTTGTGATCAGCTGGTCTTTCACAAATTTGA
GCTCTG-5' (D-SLAP; SEQ ID NO:30).
4. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first primer has the sequence 3'-
NNNNNNNNNNGGAGAGCTCACAGCTGAAGCAGCTGACTAGCACCTAGTGTAGA
ATACATCTTGAGCTAT-5' (D-CLAP1; SEQ ID NO:31).
5. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first primer has the sequence 3'-
NNNNNNNNNNNNNAGAGCTCACAGCTGAAGCAGCTGACTAGCACCTAGTGTAG
AATACATCTTGAGCTAT-5' (D-CLAP2; SEQ ID NO:32).
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first primer comprises an inosine nucleotide.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the loop structure is a ~~simple~~hairpin-like loop structure, or a cloverleaf loop structure comprising more than one hairpin-like loop structure.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

B2
C024
11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) A method for isolating a double-stranded cDNA having a nucleotide sequence of a complete open reading frame which comprises:

A) admixing

(i) a biological sample containing mRNA comprising a polyA sequence,

(ii) a first primer which forms a stem-loop structure, comprising:

(a) a poly-T sequence at the 3' end of the primer linked to

(b) a first, random, sequence, linked to

(c) a second sequence which forms a loop structure, linked to

(c) a third sequence at the 5' end of the primer which is complementary to the first sequence, and

(iii) a reverse transcriptase,

under hybridization conditions sufficient for annealing the primer to the mRNA poly-A sequence;

B) incubating the mixture from step (A) under suitable conditions for reverse transcription;

C) performing a polymerase chain reaction with an aliquot of the mixture from step (B) using ~~one~~ a second, gene-specific, primer which is pre-defined and ~~one~~ a third primer, which has a sequence identical to at least a portion of the first primer sequence ~~of element (ii)~~, thereby isolating the cDNA having the sequence of the complete open reading frame.

17. (Previously amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the primer has the sequence 3'-
TTTTTTTTTTTCAGAGCTCAAATTTGTGATCAGCTGGTCTTTCACAAATTTGA
GCTCTG-5' (T-SLAP; SEQ ID NO:33).
